

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

✓✓✓✓✓  
Please cancel Claims 2-3, 9, 12-16, and 18-19.

Please amend Claims 1, 4-8, 11, 17, and 20 as follows. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (pages i - iii).

Sub D2  
1. (Twice Amended) A method for assessing the ability of a vaccine composition in a group consisting of two or more distinct vaccine compositions having a defined human T cell epitope or one or more nucleic acid molecules encoding one or more antigens which comprise said T cell epitope, to stimulate a monoclonal human T cell response, said method comprising the steps of:

- C1
- (a) contacting human antigen presenting cells in culture with the vaccine composition, thereby, if said T cell epitope or one or more of the nucleic acid molecules are taken up and processed by said antigen presenting cells, producing one or more processed antigens;
  - (b) contacting said antigen presenting cells of step (a) with monoclonal human T cells having a T cell receptor specific for the defined human T cell epitope or defined peptide and known HLA allele for said T cells under conditions sufficient for said T cells to respond to the processed antigen;
  - (c) determining the level of said T cells' response to the processed antigen; and, if the vaccine composition exceeds a predetermined level of said T cells' response,
  - (d) assessing the vaccine composition in one or more human subjects.

C2  
4. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the monoclonal human T cells are CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells and the T cell epitope is a CD8 epitope.

5. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the monoclonal human T cells are CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells and the T cell epitope is a CD4 epitope.
6. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the human antigen presenting cells are selected from the group consisting of macrophages, dendritic cells and B cells.
- C2 7. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the level of human T cell response to the processed antigen is indicated by the release of one or more cytokines or lysis of the human antigen presenting cells.
8. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the level of human T cell response to the processed antigen which is measured is the level of release of one or more cytokines or the level of stimulated formation of antibodies by B cells.

11. (Twice Amended) A method for selecting one or more vaccine compositions from among a group consisting of two or more vaccine compositions for assessment in a human, said vaccine compositions each comprising a defined human T cell epitope or one or more nucleic acid molecules encoding one or more antigens which comprise said T cell epitope, said method comprising the steps of:

- C3
- (a) contacting human antigen presenting cells in culture with a vaccine composition selected from among said group of vaccine compositions, thereby, if said T cell epitope or one or more of the nucleic acid molecules encoding one or more antigens which comprise said T cell epitope are taken up and processed by said antigen presenting cells, producing one or more processed antigens;
  - (b) contacting said antigen presenting cells of step (a) with monoclonal human T cells under conditions sufficient for said T cells to respond to one or more of the processed antigens;
  - (c) determining the level of said T cells' response to one or more of the processed antigens;
  - (d) repeating steps (a), (b) and (c) with each additional vaccine composition in the group; and